

**P-16 Advisory Council**

**Nominations for Advisory Liaisons**

## **Holly Marich, Educator**

### **Nominated by Nevada Association of School Boards**

Holly Marich was born and raised in White Pine County. She is a 1990 graduate of White Pine High School, and a 1994 graduate of the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Two master degrees followed, one in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in literacy from Lesley University, the other in elementary mathematics through the University of Nevada, Reno. Currently, Holly is a PhD Candidate at Michigan State University (one of our nation's highest ranked colleges of education) in the Educational Psychology and Educational Technology program via their hybrid program.

Holly is a teacher consultant for Great Basin Writing Project and one of two teachers in White Pine County that are National Board Certified. While working as a professional development coordinator for Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, (NNRPDP) Holly has the ongoing opportunity to work with teachers in five of Nevada's different counties and works with teachers in both Clark County and Washoe County through various networking opportunities such as the Teacher Inquiry Community Leadership Network of Nevada in which she helped create and continues to help sustain.

Although Holly is no longer in her own classroom (which at times may cause a degree of isolation) this regular access to multiple teacher perspectives may be an asset to the P-16 committee.

# Damon Etter, Educator

## Nominated by Nevada Association of School Boards

A native Oregonian, my training comes from five years at Oregon State University where I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies with an Emphasis in Social Studies Education. One of those five years was spent at the University of Sussex, England; where I had the ability to experience a varying form of postsecondary education. Upon graduating from Oregon State University, I attended Western Oregon University to earn a Masters of Arts in Teaching.

After earning my masters degree, I was hired by Lyon County School District. I am currently teaching Social Studies at Dayton High School (DHS) in Dayton, Nevada. While at DHS, I have established a record of innovative accomplishments that contribute to the learning and achievement of the students I serve. One of these accomplishments is my implementation of the DHS Economic Summit. This curriculum is produced by the Federal Reserve and requires students to adopt a country, and improve their country's standard of living utilizing economic concepts and critical thinking skills to solve real world problems. As a result of this curriculum and other creative lessons, I was awarded the title of 2010 Innovative Educator of the Year by the Nevada Associations of School Boards.

Along with my innovative teaching, I am currently an active member of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) committee. As a member of the School's SIP, I was selected as a professional development teacher. I am currently teaching my colleagues the "Understanding by Design" developed by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe as well as "Student-Involved Assessment for Learning" by Rick Stiggins. Along with my participation in School Improvement, I am also a team member and "buddy" with our Instructional Consultation Teams.

Finally, I have organized our annual Opportunities Conference. This conference involves more than 40 college and vocational school representatives, business professionals, military recruiters, and others gathered to speak with students and to conduct mini-seminars. The purpose of this conference is to give students the opportunity to explore first hand their postsecondary options.

Overall, my goal is to give every student at DHS the chance to make positive and educated postsecondary choices. If our students can achieve this goal, Nevada will be filled with future entrepreneurs and well developed problem solvers.

**Kimberly S. Wooden**  
**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Kimberly S. Wooden is currently serving as the Chief Student Services Officer for the Clark County School District. In her position in the Student Support Services Division, Ms. Wooden has responsibility for providing assistance to support schools and departments serving special education students, gifted students, early childhood students as well as supervising the Title I Services office which serves schools with high percentages of students in poverty. Ms. Wooden also supports the Department of Threat Evaluation and Student Crisis Response, Charter School Office, Grants Management Department, Fiscal Accountability and Data Analysis, Compliance and Monitoring, and Homebound services.

Ms Wooden began her career as a general education teacher in Phoenix, AZ. Additionally, she also taught general education in the Clark County School District where she expanded her role as an educator to include the instruction of students with disabilities. She served as an Assistant Principal in the Clark County School District at both Ruth Fyfe and Bunker Elementary schools. During her role as an Assistant Principal on Special Assignment, Ms. Wooden had the challenge of coordinating over four hundred after school, intersession and summer school programs for elementary students. In 2000, Ms. Wooden accepted the challenge of balancing the ever present needs of children with disabilities with the demands of a large urban school district when she accepted the position of Coordinator for Resource Management of Special Education. Since that time she has served as the Assistant Director of Fiscal Accountability and Data Analysis, Director of Quality Assurance and Executive Director of Special Education.

Ms. Wooden received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education from Arizona State University. She obtained her Master of Arts Degree in Leadership from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and pursued advanced studies in Administration at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Having a broad range of professional experiences on behalf of children with disabilities, Ms. Wooden has been an active member of organizations such as Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Council for Exceptional Children, Phi Delta Kappa, National Association of Year Round Education, including presentations at conferences. She is also an active participant that the Urban Collaborative.

Under her leadership, and focus on continuous improvement, the Clark County School District

- Raised the bar for students by creating a partnership with a university to offer a gifted summer academy, expanded Advanced Placement courses, and increased inclusive practices and,
- Ensured the best return on investment by analyzing data regarding programs, services and supports and utilizing the data to expand programs that yielded the greatest results,
- Increased transparency and accountability by utilizing data to report and monitor the progress of specialized populations, and

- Involved stakeholders in the educational process by increasing community partnerships to scale up best practices throughout the Clark County School District.

Ms. Wooden has been invited to review other school districts' special education programs related to fiscal resources in a consulting role. She has been invited to present at parent meetings in other schools districts on inclusive practices for students with disabilities.

Ms. Wooden has served as an appointed member of the Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium in activities such as public awareness, infrastructure and early childhood. She was named the Chair of the Barrier Busting Committee which ensures students with mental health needs are provided in state care when possible.

Her work with diverse populations in urban settings has prepared her to understand and better serve students and their families. She is a committed educator who continues to address the many outstanding issues related to providing full educational opportunities to children with diverse needs.

At the January, 2012 P-16 Council meeting, Erin Cranor recommended Kim Wooden for nomination as a liaison to the P-16 Council as an individual with expertise and timely access to relevant data processes.

Notes in response to the chair's information request regarding Kim Wooden's interaction with Early Childhood Advisory Council and other early childhood organizations, and expertise/access regarding early childhood data.

- Kathy Banak and Julie Kasper, Early Childhood Director and Early Childhood Coordinator in Ms. Wooden's division, are representatives on the Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and attend regular meetings.
- A number of other regular interagency meetings include local partnerships with Accelerero/Head Start.
- Also for Early Intervention, ages 0-3, coordination Julie Kasper meets quarterly to ensure smooth transitions of students to our 3 year old programs.
- We interact constantly with the Nevada Department of Education regarding our state-funded, Title I-funded and special education early childhood programs.
- Teaching Strategies Gold is the online evaluation tool our teachers use.
- We coordinate data to be uploaded to NVSears through CCSD's system special education data system, Encore.
- In our State-funded PreK programs, the Nevada Department of Education contracts out to track state funded longitudinal data.
- Much of Ms. Wooden's participation is through staff and representation from the talented EC Administrators in the Student Support Services Division.
- Ms. Wooden is the division head, with decision-making authority regarding early childhood and special education data.